

Serial No. 10/799,679
Amendment dated September 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2005

Docket No. P-0667

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 32-44 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 44 is amended to correct a minor informality, and claims 1-31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Prompt examination and allowance in due course is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 32-44 are allowed, and that claims 4-7, 11-17 and 20-23 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted in the amendment filed June 15, 2005, claims 32-34 are allowable claims 4, 6 and 20, respectively, written in independent form. Further, as claims 1-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and all of pending claims 32-44 are in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that the application is also in condition for allowance.

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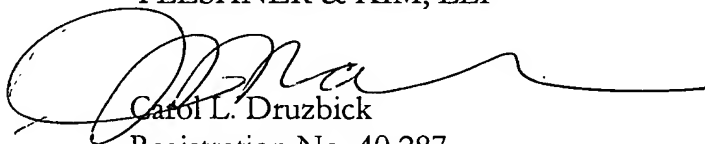
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The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 8-10, 18-19 and 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent No. 10327763 (hereinafter "JP '763"). Claims 1-3, 8-10, 18-19 and 24-31 are canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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